

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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-----103066 292220Z /72

R 291530Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8804

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EG US IS PLO XF

SUBJECT: US-PLO DIALOGUE AND EGYPTIAN-ARAB DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: PRESS CONTINUES IGNORE PCC DECISION AND REMAINS

UPBEAT ON POSSIBILITY OF US-PLO DIALOGUE, PRESENTING IT

AS BEST WAY OUT OF CURRENT IMPASSE AND STRESSING US

ME STATEMENTS REPRESENT PROGRESS FOR PALESTINIANS. ALSO

DEVOTES HEAVY COVERAGE TO EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

LINE UP SUPPORT AT UNGA AND TO PREPARATIONS FOR AL

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COUNCIL MEETING SEPT. 3. FRENETIC DIPLOMATIC

ACTIVITY, WHICH MOST EGYPTIANS SEE AS SO MUCH RUNNING

IN PLACE, IS IN FACT REQUIRED SINCE GOE HAS NEGLECTED

CONSULTATIONS OVER PAST FEW MONTHS. END SUMMARY.

1. US-PLO DIALOGUE: MOST INTERESTING ASPECT OF CONSID-
ERABLE AMOUNT OF FROTH PRESS SERVING UP IN PEACE PROCESS

COVERAGE IN PAST DAYS IS UPBEAT TREATMENT OF POSSIBILITY FOR US-PLO DIALOGUE. STILL CONSIDERED BY PRESS AS BEST AVENUE TO FURTHER PROGRESS, THEME ALSO USED TO SHED FAVORABLE LIGHT ON US ROLE. ALL PAPERS THUS FEATURED FAHMY MEETING WITH ARAFAT AUGUST 27, BEFORE LATTER'S DEPARTURE FOR MOSCOW, WHICH CENTERED ON RESULTS OF CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING IN DAMASCUS AND "POSSIBILITY OF DIRECT US-PLO DIALOGUE." SEMI-OFFICIAL OCTOBER MAGAZINE ALSO ADDRESSED PLO-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN QUOTE BY A PALESTINIAN SOURCE "HAILING ROLE PLAYED BY EGYPT IN EFFECTING SORT OF RAPPROCHMENT BETWEEN AMERICAN AND PALESTINIAN SIDES (THAT) HAS HELPED TO CREATE BETTER AMERICAN UNDERSTANDING OF PALESTINIAN ISSUE." AHRAH FRONT PAGED STORY ON FAHMY MEETING WITH PLO REPS ABU MAZIN, ABU RAMADAN AND GAMAL SURANI AUGUST 28 THAT ALSO FOCUSED ON THEIR DISCUSSION OF "CONTINUING CONTACTS IN EFFORT TO CREATE DIRECT US-PLO DIALOGUE THROUGH CONSULTATIONS BY CAIRO WITH TWO SIDES." DAMASCUS MEETING FUZZED OVER IN STATEMENT BY SURANI WHO MERELY SAID THAT PALESTINIANS EXPLAINED THAT RES 242 IGNORED RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE.

2. FINALLY, THEME ABUNDANT IN EDITORIALS. AHRAH COMMENTARY, "DIALOGUE: SILENT AND AUDIBLE", NOTED "PLO EAGERNESS FOR DIALOGUE WITH US" AND NEW PROGRESS IN PRESIDENT CARTER STATEMENTS ON PALESTINIAN HOMELAND AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS ("ALTHOUGH HE IS NOT EXERTING PRESSURE ON ISRAEL.") (US INSISTENCE ON ACCEPTANCE OF 242 WITH RESERVATIONS TAKEN AS A GIVEN BUT "THERE IS A KIND OF IMPLICIT AGREEMENT THAT THIS DOES NOT IMPEDE INITIATING A DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES. . . " EDITORIAL ARGUED THAT PALESTINIANS SHOWING GREAT FLEXIBILITY, DESPITE FAILURE TO DEAL WITH 242 AT DAMASCUS. PLO'S EAGERNESS FOR US DIALOGUE " IS ENCOURAGING LANDMARK" IN SEARCH FOR UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AND PLO, AND ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE" WILL HELP IT ALONG. "HENCE IT IS EXPECTED THAT DIALOGUE WILL BE INITIATED, IN VIEW OF OPTIMISM SURROUNDING PRESIDENT CARTER' RECENT STATEMENTS, AND WHEN THIS SILENT DIALOGUE TURNS INTO AN AUDIBLE ONE, IT WILL GIVE MOMENTUM TO THE PEACE PROCESS." GUMHURIYYA COMMENTED IN SIMILAR VEIN, ALSO NOTING IMPORTANCE OF EGYPTIAN EFFORTS IN BRINGING US AND PLO CLOSER TOGETHER AS "PRELIMINARY TO THE PROSPECTIVE MEETINGS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES." FOR GUMHURIYYA, PALESTINIAN CAUSE HAS ACHIEVED SUCCESS IN PAST MONTHS OF "US ADMINISTRATION'S RECOGNITION OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO A HOMELAND."

3. AS UNGA NEARS. SECOND PORTION OF PRESS TWIN BILL

HAS BEEN EGYPTIAN AND ARAB DIPLOMACY AIMED AT CONSOLIDATING
ARAB POSITIONS PRIOR TO MAJOR EFFORT AT UNGA. FAHMY IS
CONTINUING HIS SESSIONS WITH CAIRO CHIEFS OF MISSION,
TREATING LATINOS TO CALL FOR SUPPORT AUGUST 27 AND NON-EC
EUROPEANS TO SIMILAR PERFORMANCE AUGUST 28. RECURRING
THEME IS THAT ISRAELI THUMB JAMMED DEEP IN COLLECTIVE EYES
OF ASSEMBLED AND ALL MUST TAKE PROMPT MEASURES AT UNGA.
EASTERN EUROPEAN REPS WILL BE ASSEMBLED AUGUST 30
FOR, PRESUMABLY, FAHMY'S FINAL MASS SALVO. TEEATMENT
SUGGESTS HIGHLY SATISFACTORY RESPONSES, NOTABLY REMARKS
BY VATICAN PRO-NUNCIO MSGR ACHILLE GLORIEUX (SOUNDING
MORE FRENCH THAN PAPAL) THAT "MEETING WAS USEFUL, VERY
INTERESTING, AND RESULTED IN CLARIFICATION OF ALL ASPECTS
OF RECENT ISRAELI MEASURES IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES."
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GLORIEUX ACCUSED OF SAYING THAT AMBASSADORS WOULD SUGGEST
THEIR GOVERNMENTS "TO TAKE SUCH ACTION AS DEEMED
NECESSARY TO CONDEMN THESE MEASURES AND ADOPT UNIFIED
STAND ON THEM AT UNGA."

4. ARAB LEAGUE PREPARES. ARAB SOLIDARITY IS MOTIF OF
HEAVY COVERAGE OF PREPARATIONS FOR ARAB LEAGUE MINISTERIAL
COUNCIL MEETING SEPT 3. PRESS SAYS ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
WILL, AT EGYPTIAN REQUEST, BE INSCRIBED AS SEPARATE ITEM
ON AL AGENDA. AL SYG RIAD ANNOUNCED THAT ALL ARAB
FONMINS WILL ATTEND MEETING (THIS WOULD BE FIRST TIME IN
YEARS) AND PALESTINIAN QUESTION WILL BE NUMBER ONE ITEM

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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OF DISCUSSION. CONFRONTATION STATES AND SAUDI ARABIA,
ACCORDING REPOTS, WILL HOLD SEPARATE MEETING IN COURSE
OF PROCEEDINGS "TO REVIEW CONTACTS WITH US AND PLO AND
DEVELOP STAND ON FUTURE TALKS WITH PRESIDENT AND
SECRETARY VANCE." HORTATORY EDITORIALS STRESS CRUCIAL
IMPORTANCE OF ARAB SOLIDARITY.

5. IN OTHER ITEMS, PRESS REPORTS FAHMY RECEIVED SOVIET
AMBASSADOR POLYAKOV, AT LATTER'S REQUEST, AT HIS HOME
NIGHT OF AUGUST 28 (POLYAKOV HAS BEEN ON LEAVE). ALSO
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SAYS ROMANIA HAS INFORMED EGYPT OF RESULTS OF BEGIN VISIT,
DURING WHICH GUMHURIYYA EDITORIALIZES,
LAST DOOR SLAMMED IN FACE OF ISRAELIS. CAUTIONS THAT, "IN
SUICIDAL DESPAIR" OVER ITS TOTAL ISOLATION, ISRAEL
MAY BE TEMPTED TO LAUNCH "BLITZKRIEG AGAINST ARABS."

6. COMMENT: GOE CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO DEMONSTRATE
PCC DECISION OF NO GREAT IMPORTANCE AND EGYPT CONTINUING
DO ITS BEST FOR BOTH US AND PALESTINIANS, PLAYING UP
POSSIBILITY OF DIALOGUE AS WAY OUT OF WILDERNESS OF CURRENT
IMPASSE. FEW EGYPTIANS TAKING MUCH HEART FROM ALL THIS
RUNNING IN PLACE. BARRAGE OF REPORTS ON EGYPT'S
OSTENSIBLY ALTRUISTIC EFFORTS IN POLITICAL BATTLE AGAINST
ISRAEL (WE NOTE THAT MENTION OF ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
AND OTHER MEASURES DWELLS ON WEST BANK AND GAZA, TO
VIRTUAL EXCLUSION OF SINAI) HAS BIT OF DESPERATE TONE.
RINGING ANNOUNCEMENTS OF INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT DO
LITTLE CONCEAL BLEAK, IN ARAB TERMS, HISTORY OF RESULTS
PRODUCED BY PAST UN "VICTORIES". SIMILARLY, PEAEENS TO
DURABILITY OF ARAB RESOLVE STAND IN UNFAVORABLE CONTRA-

DICTION TO FRENETIC ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS ARABS SEEM TO
NEED TO MAINTAIN SEMBLANCE OF SOLIDARITY. IN FACT, GOE NEGLECT
OF CONSULTATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS MAKES CURRENT
ARAB ROUND NECESSARY. EILTS

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